

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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San Bernardino County Radiation Health Advisory

The damage to nuclear reactors in Japan has led to concerns about radiation exposure in San Bernardino County. Japan's nuclear emergency presents no current danger to California residents, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The California Department of Public Health is monitoring the situation closely with state and federal partners, including the NRC, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, FEMA Region IX, and the California Emergency Management Agency.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health does not recommend taking potassium iodide tablets (also called KI) as a precaution, since state and federal experts do not anticipate a risk of radiation exposure to local residents at this time. Potassium iodide tablets can present a danger to people with allergies to iodine, shellfish or who have thyroid problems. Potassium iodide tablets should not be taken until/unless directed by authorities, or advised by a medical professional. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health continues to closely monitor the situation, and will alert clinicians if recommendations change.

The California Department of Public Health has a radiological branch and routinely tests air, water and the food supply. California has a plan of response for radiological emergencies if one were to arise.

For more information, call the California Department of Public Health hotline at **916-341-3947**.

CDPH Radiation FAQs: http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8325E0BE-A6D0-4465-ABB5-F19C9B188FFB/402/japan_event_faq1.pdf

CDC Health Effects and Treatment for Radiation Emergencies:
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/healtheffects.asp>

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